

# County News and Views

APRIL 2002

## From the Office of Fifth District Supervisor Jerry Eaves

### Child Abuse Prevention Month

Shine a Light on Child Abuse. Child abuse is not going away. It's happening now... to someone you may know. April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Each year, thousands of children are abused in the Inland Empire. During the month of April, show your support for an end to child abuse by turning on your headlights when you drive and wearing a blue ribbon, the international symbol of child abuse prevention. You can also show your support by calling (909) 387-8966. You will receive parenting information, tips for abuse prevention and reporting child abuse.

There is still a great need to raise public awareness that child abuse is a real problem in San Bernardino County and, even more importantly, that something can be done about it. The shocking truth is that over 50,000 San Bernardino County children were reported as abused or neglected last year. These are real children with names and faces, brothers and sisters, moms and dads, aunts and uncles, and grandparents. They go to school, to the park, to the beach, and eat in the same restaurants as your children and mine. They are different, however, in that they go to bed at night frightened by real dangers that lurk in the shadows of what should be the safest place they know – their own home.

### Child Abuse Hotline

All counties are required to staff and maintain a 7-day, 24 hour a day hotline to receive reports of child abuse from mandated and non-mandated reporters.

San Bernardino County has centralized this function through the implementation of the Child Abuse Hotline (CAHL). The CAHL facility processes reports by telephone only and can be reached at (800) 827-8724, or in the San Bernardino area at (909) 350-4949.

The CAHL staff of Social Service Practitioners takes telephone reports from mandated and non-mandated reports. These reports are either evaluated out and saved for later reference or forwarded on to a regional office for a field assessment. This is determined by a complex formula involving the nature of the report, the quality of information available and many other factors.

There are two types of reporters: Mandated and non-mandated. Mandated reporters are those individuals such as Childcare custodians, Health Practitioners, Clergy Members, Fire Fighters and Humane Society Office Employees. Whenever these mandated reporters have "knowledge of or observe a child in their professional capacity or within the scope of their employment whom they know or reasonably suspect has been a victim of child abuse", they must make an immediate verbal report. Non-mandated reporters are all others who have knowledge of, observe or reasonably suspect child abuse and wish to make a report.

Our goal is to increase the awareness of child abuse and its prevention. Preventing child abuse should be everyone's concern.

### CALENDAR

San Bernardino County Family Celebration Picnic  
Especially for parents and children!  
Saturday April 27 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm  
Cucamonga-Guasti Regional Park  
800 N. Archibald Avenue, Ontario  
Other events at Mojave Narrows Park in Victorville and  
Yucaipa Regional Park in Yucaipa.  
For more information, call 1-800-782-4264.

### COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

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